

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, June 28, '87

COMMERCIAL UNION.

The question of Commercial Union with the United States is now fairly before the people. It is one of such gigantic change, of such far-reaching effects, that its adoption or rejection must be decided on only after the fullest discussion. For this reason, it behoves all that feel a deeper concern for country than for party to keep the question as long as possible out of the domain of party politics. Otherwise, it is not at all improbable that we may be treated to a hasty and snatched verdict just as we have on more than one occasion. Practical politicians view every subject in no other light than that of making votes. The right or wrong of a matter, its benefit or its injury, seldom enters into their consideration. We are not surprised, therefore, when we find that already the attempt is made to brand even the mooted of Commercial Union as a party dodge, and the outcome of Grit disappointment and American cunning.

That the trade barriers which now separate the United States and Canada are artificial and vexatious rather than natural and beneficial must be apparent at the first glance at the map. Protection may be either vindictive or necessitous. Not unfrequently it is both, and always it is manifestly an attempt to better one's self at the expense of a neighbor. Yet we confess that protection may be forced on a country just as the maintenance of a standing army. Before a country dares to disband its forces, it must have a perfect guarantee that all other adjacent countries will do the same. So to throw open its ports to a land that closes its own, might be on the part of a people an act of folly.

A very serious consideration, however, is whether the blending of our trade interests with those of the United States would not lead to a blending of our political systems. In other words, can Canada become commercially an integral part of the United States, and still retain intact her political constitution? The Globe and Mail protest that Commercial Union would be a sure preventive of Annexation. The Toronto World, the government's substitute for an organ, protests more vehemently that Commercial Union cannot but be followed by Annexation. This is, we repeat, a most weighty and grave consideration. Nothing but invincible arguments can settle it. Protests and mere noisy shouting, from which the Globe and in a far higher degree the Mail are free in the treatment of the question, are worse than useless. Not only do they not throw light, but they obscure and perplex. Until it is shown beyond a doubt that there is not the slightest connection between Commercial Union and Political Annexation, we would fain hope that there is not any considerable number of Canadians either ready or willing to espouse it.

It will not be out of place to remark here that this new issue is due to the monstrous extravagance and profligacy of the Macdonald-Tupper Administration. They have heaped up our load of debt until the back of the body corporate threatens to break. They are continuing to spend with a lavishness that ignores any interest in the future. They have stimulated trade until stimulants are ceasing to produce any other than evil effects. Their own supporters both in and out of parliament have become alarmed, and are no longer zealous in hearing and obeying the leader's voice. Indeed, signs of actual rebellion are plainly visible in the ministerial

ranks. Old ties and customs may for a time prevent the rush. But come it will, and then the country will find itself face to face with new questions and a departed treasury.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

The celebration of the Queen's Jubilee has called forth a burst of genuine enthusiasm from all the subjects of her mighty empire. Fortunately for England and the whole civilized world, such is the character of Her Majesty that neither flattery nor toadyism is requisite to account for the acclamations that greeted our Sovereign. Under the terrible ordeal of the fierce light that beats upon a throne, not one black spot has been brought out. So blended and equally proportioned are the domestic and public virtues of Victoria, that it is both to which must be ascribed her glory. A loving wife and mother, she is also a scrupulous respecter of the constitution under which she holds sway. With an ear ever open to the cry of distress, with a heart ever ready to sympathize with misery, she has always been equally eager and studious to promote all that could minister to England's greatness at home and abroad. Her life contains more than one unhappy page; in the isolation of that lofty position which tends to keep aloof all mere private friendship, she has had to bear trials and bereavements harder than usual. But in weal and in woe, Victoria shines forth as a pattern of christian firmness and constancy. Success has not produced in her case dizziness; grief has not borne sullenness. She is to-day the idol and the glory of her people. And never was more sincere prayer uttered than that which now ascends from millions of souls—that God will continue to be gracious to our sovereign, bless her and comfort her, to prosper her to the end. May that end be still far, far away.

THE YOUNG CANADIANS.

It would be idle to pretend that the villagers are not keenly alive to the train of disasters that has so persistently beset the Young Canadian Lacrosse Club. Most of its members are still resident in Richmond Hill, and anything, consequently that touches them touches us all. We naturally rejoice with them in victory, and just as naturally we mourn with them in defeat. To what we should attribute the succession of defeats which has so far marked this season is not precisely clear. The boys themselves and the Toronto Mail and other sympathizers say that they are playing in hard luck. One thing certain is that a defeat is just as apt to unnerve and depress as to stimulate and brace. If men go into a struggle fearful of the result, it is not difficult to foretell what that result will be. That such is the feeling of the Young Canadians, we, of course, cannot say. The old members play as well as ever. Indeed there are several who never displayed such skill as they have shown this year. However, this year seems fated to be their black one, and they must acquit themselves as well in adversity as they were wont to do in prosperity. Richmond Hill is still proud of the Young Canadians. The village cannot forget the many 'big days' they have given it. And it is the sincere wish of all that the clouds of defeat which have of late so huddled on their lead enough to break the strongest down may speedily scurry away before the beams of renewed success.

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